

CANDLEWICK PRESS DISCUSSION GUIDE



Froi of the Exiles: Book 2 of the Lumatere Chronicles
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Froi of the Exiles

BLOOD SINGS TO BLOOD . . .

During the three years since the lifting of the curse on Lumatere, Froi has found a home there and a proud place alongside the Guard that protects Queen Isaboe and her family. But these loyalties are severely tested when Froi is sent on a secret mission into Charyn. There he finds himself entangled by dark bonds of kinship and struggling to make sense of the barren kingdom's half-mad princess. In this breathtaking volume, the second of the brilliant Lumatere Chronicles, Froi discovers the song sleeping in his blood — and despite the strong-willed teenager's desires to the contrary, the time has come for him to listen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. A teenager with a tortured past, Froi is reckless and so quick-tempered that he routinely counts to ten to hold back his fury. Yet he is also the perfect choice for a delicate mission to Charyn. Why?
2. Isaboe is Lumatere's queen, but her husband, Finnikin, is consort, not king. What is the difference between those roles? Which is better suited to Finnikin? Why?
3. Froi promised Isaboe that he would never again harm a woman. Why did he make her this vow? When was he tempted to break it? Does he ever break it?
4. "Our boy doesn't work well without instruction," Trevanian says of Froi (page 61). "He needs to be informed of his bond." What is Froi instructed to do in Charyn? Does he keep his bond? Should he have?
5. What curse has befallen the kingdom of Charyn? Why does Quintana believe she can put an end to it? What is she willing to do to herself for her people? Why aren't they grateful?
6. Who are the last born of Charyn? What is their importance to their homeland? What is their reputation? Do they deserve it?



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7. Although the people of Lumatere revere their queen, the people of Charyn are often at odds with their royalty. Why? What happens in Charyn after the king's death? How is the situation exploited? Why?
8. Who was the oracle of Charyn? What were the roles she played in the kingdom? Why was her godshouse attacked? Who were some of the other victims of that attack?
9. The arranged marriage of Lucian and Phaedra was troubled from the start. Why did their fathers want this match? What interests drew the couple together? What differences drove them apart?
10. "My blood sings to you," Rafael says to Froi (page 59). "The blood of every Charynite in the valley sings to you." What does Rafael mean by this? How does Froi initially respond? When does he fully comprehend his ties to Charyn?
11. Isaboe and Finnikin were fearless during their fight to free Lumatere. What makes governing their homeland a more difficult task?
12. What is Froi's full name? What does it mean?
13. Gargarin of Abroi and his brother, Arjuro, are twins. In what ways are they alike? In what ways are they very different? What has each sacrificed for the other?
14. What does it mean to be "gods' touched"? Does Arjuro think it's a gift or a curse? Why?
15. Why does Quintana refer to herself as "we"? Who is Princess Indignant? Who is the Ice Maiden? Whom does Froi initially prefer? Whom does he come to love? Why?
16. How does Froi discover the identity of his parents? What does he want from them? What does he get from them? What are his feelings for them?
17. "We don't have enough kindness in this land," Grijio says of Charyn (page 540). What does he mean by that? Is Lumatere a land of kindness? Is any country?
18. Froi assures Quintana that he will always protect her, but we are told "he would come to realize sooner rather than later that it was the greatest lie he had ever spoken aloud" (page 558). Do you agree that Froi is lying? Why or why not?
19. Lumatere and Charyn are neighboring kingdoms with long histories. Why do their people know so little about each other's beliefs and customs? What difference would it make if they did?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melina Marchetta is the author of many acclaimed novels, including *Finnikin of the Rock*, the first book in the Lumatere Chronicles, an American Library Association Top Ten Best Fiction Title for Young Adults and the winner of Australia's Aurealis Award. She also wrote the Printz Award-winning *Jellicoe Road*; *Saving Francesca* and its companion, *The Piper's Son*; and *Looking for Alibrandi*. She lives in Australia.

PRAISE FOR *FINNIKIN OF THE ROCK* THE FIRST BOOK IN THE LUMATERE CHRONICLES



★ "Magic, romance, intrigue, and adventure all play their parts as this dense, intricate epic unfolds, and flawed, memorable heroes fight for their kingdom's redemption."
— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ "Filled with questions about the impact of exile and the human need to belong, this standout fantasy quickly reveals that its real magic lies in its accomplished writing."
— *Booklist* (starred review)

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